

NPIC REGISTRY

FILE INFO

REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

DEC 24 5 55 AM '74

ACTION	1	IAS	6	IAS	11		16
	2	IAS	7	FILE	12		17
	3	IAS	8		13		18
	4	IAS	9		14		19
	5	IAS	10		15		20

OUT: 79306

SECRET 232225Z DEC 74 STAFF

CITE NPIC 17901.

25X1A TO: [REDACTED] DIRECTOR.

25X1A [REDACTED] INTEL

25X1A REF: [REDACTED]

THIS IS FROM IAS

25X1D 1. LAO ROUTES 8 AND 81 WERE OBSERVED ON GIANT SCALE PHOTOGRAPHY DATED [REDACTED] ROUTE 8 WAS IN GOOD CONDITION FROM WF1328 TO LAK SAO (VF9712), A DISTANCE OF 24 KILOMETERS (KM). THIS ROAD WAS SINGLE LANE WITH SOME SELECTED RECENT GRADING. OTHER SECTIONS OF ROAD HAVE BRUSH CLEARING ALONG BOTH SHOULDERS FOR POSSIBLE WIDENING. A FORD WAS IN USE AT BAN NAPE (WF0824) AND A SMALL BRIDGE SPANNED A STREAM AT WF 0520. ROUTE 81 WAS DRY AND IN GOOD CONDITION FOR 35 KM FROM LAK SAO WEST TO THE NAM THEUN AT VF6417. NO BRIDGES WERE OBSERVED AT ANY OF THE STREAM CROSSINGS. A FERRY, ALTHOUGH NOT ACTUALLY OBSERVED, WAS PROBABLY USED TO CROSS THE NAM THEUN. FROM THE NAM THEUN SOUTHWEST TO THE VICINITY OF BAN NASAKONG (VF4702), A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 30 KM, ROUTE 81 WAS IN AT LEAST FAIR CONDITION. WHILE THAT SECTION OF ROAD WHICH CROSSES THE PHOU THOUN MOUNTAIN RANGE (VF6010) HAS BEEN GRADED, PORTIONS OF ROUTE 81 TO THE SOUTHWEST WERE MERELY UNGRADED VEHICLE TRACKS. ROUTE 81 WAS NOT OBSERVED BETWEEN ROUTE 13 AND BAN NASAKONG DUE TO TREE CANOPY.

2. AT THIS TIME, THE ROUTE 8/81 CORRIDOR APPEARS CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING NO MORE THAN LIGHT TO MODERATE VOLUMES OF TRAFFIC BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAM AND ROUTE 13. CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROAD-BED AND TO STREAM CROSSINGS WOULD BE REQUIRED IF GREATER TRAFFIC VOLUMES ARE INTENDED AND/OR IF YEAR AROUND USE IS ATTEMPTED. MAP REF.--AMS SERIES L 7015, SHEETS 5945 II, III, 6045 III, IV. E-2 IMPDET
SECRET